

operations plans (COOP) address securing the safety of all employees and responding to the needs of personnel performing essential operations, but essential personnel make up only a small portion of the total federal workforce.

Neither the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) nor the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the agencies responsible for providing emergency preparedness guidance in COOP, have addressed workforce considerations related to the resumption of broader agency operations. While COOP efforts should give priority to the safety of all employees and address the needs of those who directly support essential operations, the resumption of all other operations is crucial to achieving mission results and serving the American people.

The GAO report states that, "Given that the majority of employees would be associated with resumption efforts rather than essential operations, considering this segment of the organization is an important part of continuity planning." According to GAO, continuity efforts should be guided by two key workforce principles: the demonstration of sensitivity to individual employee needs and the maximization of all employees' contributions to mission results.

I introduced H.R. 4797 to push agencies to do just that. The legislation would require the Chief Human Capital Officer Council to conduct and evaluate a 30-day demonstration project that broadly uses employees' contributions to an agency's operations from alternate work locations, including home. The outcome of the demonstration project would provide agencies and Congress with approaches to gaining flexibility and identifying work processes that should be addressed during an extended emergency situation.

This Congress experienced a prolonged emergency situation when, in 2001, congressional office buildings were closed from 2 weeks to 3 months due to the threat of anthrax contamination. Congressional staff stayed home, or they were hastily relocated to nearby federal office buildings. A Congressional Research Report on congressional continuity of operations stated that although alternate office accommodations were in place, office computer and hard copy files in the closed offices, in many cases, were inaccessible.

The number and types of potential emergency interruptions are unknown and we must be prepared, in advance of an incident, with the work processes and infrastructure needed to reestablish agency operations.

In a world where anything is possible, we must be prepared for all the possibilities.

ACT APPLAUDS EFFORTS TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF FEDERAL OPERATIONS THROUGH TELEWORKING

The Association for Commuter Transportation applauds Congressman Danny Davis (D-IL) in his effort to ensure continuity of Federal operations in the event of an emergency, natural or manmade, by making effective use of telecommuting. The legislation introduced today by Congressman Davis will show that establishing effective telework programs for the Federal Workforce will allow for continuity of federal operations in the event of an emergency.

The events of September 11th showed us that the Federal government needs to be better prepared to operate in the event of an emergency. However, an act of terror is not the only event that prevents the federal gov-

ernment from operating effectively. Recent events such as the anthrax incident, the tractor incident, numerous weather related events, and the events surrounding the passing of former President Reagan have all but shut down the National Capital Region. Despite this fact, the government has a need to function day to day processes even in the event of an emergency.

ACT feels that the legislation introduced today will serve as a test bed on how to operate in the event of such emergencies and provide a pilot for emergency preparedness in the context of natural disasters in other regions as well. The legislation will leave us better prepared to face the next event, and will also highlight the many benefits of telecommuting and will teach us what we need to do better.

ACT urges the Government Reform Committee and the full Congress to pass this legislation into law. We believe that the Chairman of the Government Reform Committee, Tom Davis (R-VA) is true champion of teleworking and we hope that he will align himself with this legislation.

ACT looks forward to working with Congress and with Congressmen Danny Davis (D-IL) and Tom Davis (R-VA) to see passage of this important bill.

The members of ACT represent a broad coalition of organizations—from major private-sector businesses and institutions to transportation agencies—but we all have one thing in common . . . We are all working cooperatively to make transportation work better by making it more efficient and less costly. ACT members understand that addressing the nation's transportation challenges requires investment in a comprehensive multi-faceted approach—not just the way we build our transportation systems, but the way we use our transportation system. Through programs and services that enhance and promote real transportation choices, ACT members and their partners are developing innovative solutions designed to ensure personal mobility, maximize the performance, security and safety of transportation facilities.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. PAUL SMITH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Dr. Paul Smith and thank him for his work as Associate Chief of Staff for Community-Based Care. His years of commitment and dedication as a public servant are certainly commendable and worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. As Paul celebrates his retirement, let it be known that I, along with my fellow Coloradans are grateful for all that he has accomplished during his years of service.

Paul received his degrees from the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo, Colorado Northwestern University Medical School before going on to join the U.S. Army as a physician in 1991 and completed his Family Practice residency at Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Paul became Board Certified in Family Practice and then served for four more years as an active duty Family Physician at Evans Army Community Hospital, Fort Carson, Colorado.

Paul entered private practice in Pueblo, Colorado in 1998 and enjoyed a busy practice

until 2000 when he joined the Veterans Affairs Department as a staff physician at the Pueblo VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic in August. He is a member of the National Academy of Family Physicians and a 2001 graduate of the VA's Health Care Leadership Institute course.

In addition to his strength as a doctor Paul also excels in administration, as he was appointed Acting Chief of Staff of the Southern Colorado Health Care System (SCHCS) in 2000 and became Acting Director in 2002. Through his guidance and coordination of the integration of the SCHCS with the Denver VA Medical Center it has become a stalwart model of exemplary healthcare. This experience led to his current position as Associate Chief of Staff for Community-Based Care, overseeing seven Community Based Outpatient Clinics throughout the Eastern Colorado Health Care System.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Dr. Paul Smith has been an invaluable resource to the Colorado Health care. It is my honor to recognize his service and dedication before this body of Congress and this nation. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with dedicated public servants like Paul. On behalf of the citizens that have benefited from the hard work and commitment he has given to the Community-Based Care Program and the constituents it serves, I extend my appreciation for his years of dedicated service.

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago, I returned from my fifth trip to Iraq since the President declared an end to major combat operations last May. I was able to visit with our brave men and women in uniform, many of whom still endure daily rocket strikes. Their resolve and ability to maintain good spirits in the harshest of environments is a testament to the caliber of our armed forces and their dedication to their jobs.

Last week I learned of the death Lance Corporal Michael Torres, a young man from my district who was killed by enemy fire in Fallujah. A high school scholar, athlete, and young Texas State Guardsman, Lance Corporal Torres joined the Marine Corps to serve his country and his fellow Americans. His pride for our Nation and his willingness to serve is an inspiration for El Paso and our country.

Yesterday, along with my colleagues SOLOMON ORTIZ and GRACE NAPOLITANO, I joined Congressman LANE EVANS in touring the Rock Island Arsenal, located in his district. Congressman EVANS invited us to visit this premier facility of which he is so proud and to which he offers much support. At Rock Island, we were able to see armor kits being made for Humvees, and talk with the employees who have been tirelessly working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to produce armor kits for our Humvees that are in theater in Iraq. Having seen some of these armor kits being installed in Kuwait, and having talked to soldiers both installing the kits and receiving armored vehicles, I wanted to pass on their gratitude to the workers.

When our men and women in uniform initially crossed the burm in Iraq, fewer than 40 percent of their vehicles were armored. Today, thanks to the hard work of the men and women like those at Rock Island Arsenal, we are well on our way to having every vehicle armored. Since December 19th of last year, Rock Island has produced more than 2,500 full armor kits for Humvees that were sent to Iraq—many of which were installed in theater by the very men and women who built the armor. Our Nation owes great thanks to the men and women of Rock Island Arsenal. Their hard work and dedication is giving soldiers protection and enabling them to return home to their families.

While I am pleased that we are on our way to successfully armoring our vehicles, it does not make up for the fact that many, many men and women in uniform died when they could have been protected by properly armored vehicles. I am pleased that the House Armed Services Committee has been able to work in a bipartisan manner to give our soldiers and marines in theater better force protection measures, but this should not have had to happen after our soldiers were already in theater. When we use our forces, we need to ensure that they have adequate equipment, the best information and technology, and the best training possible.

Our men and women in uniform, like Lance Corporal Torres was, are among the best and the brightest that our Nation has to offer. They are our sons and daughters, our fathers and mothers, our friends and neighbors. As a veteran and as a proud American, I pledge to offer my continued support to ensure that our men and women in uniform have what they need to do their jobs and return home safely.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DEBBIE FORRESTER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Debbie Forrester and recognize her for her outstanding achievements playing handball over the years. She is an amazing handball athlete with a very impressive history of tournament play and it is with great satisfaction that I am able to acknowledge her accomplishments before this body of Congress and nation today.

Debbie started playing handball twenty-two years ago and since then has been national runner-up several times in both singles and doubles before winning the national championship last year. Debbie was ranked seventh in the world in the "open" division, and won three national titles in that division. As a long-time resident of Western Colorado, Debbie has used her handball skill to make friends and build community relationships among her fellow citizens. Debbie's husband, Kim, was also a nationally ranked handball player as well at one point, and the two of them entered many doubles tournaments together.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Debbie Forrester is an exceptional handball player,

who uses her talents to educate and entertain interested citizens. Helping kids to get involved in sports is fundamental to a healthy childhood and I greatly appreciate Debbie's role in that process. It is my privilege to honor Debbie for her handball achievements and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILMINGTON, CALIFORNIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate today the 100th anniversary of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce.

Wilmington is known, thanks to our local chamber, as the "Heart of the Harbor," and is our nation's gateway to the Pacific and beyond. The business members of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce serve one of our country's most vital economic engines, the Port of Los Angeles. The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce enhances the local business environment and helps to improve the quality of life in our community.

The chamber's work builds on a long and auspicious history for the local community. When Phineas Banning founded Wilmington in 1858, he could hardly have imagined the impact that this small community would eventually come to have on the rest of the world. The second post office in Los Angeles County was opened here, and Wilmington was the lifeline to 215 army posts scattered throughout Arizona and New Mexico during the Civil War. Wilmington was no less important during the Second World War, when Navy ships were built on Terminal Island and contributed to winning the war in the Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce on 100 years of remarkable service to the Wilmington community and the nation. I wish the Wilmington business community many more years of success.

COMMENDATION TO RACHEL HEATH

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to extend my warmest commendation to Rachel Heath for her nearly 22 years of service to the Borough of Franklin, New Jersey.

For the past 22 years, Rachel has worked for the people of Franklin in various capacities—as Welfare Director, Accounts Payable Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and, for the past eight years, Borough Clerk and Administrator.

Though the job titles varied, all of the positions shared one element in common: service to the citizens of Franklin. As Welfare Director,

Rachel aided residents in obtaining much-needed assistance to help them through difficult times. As Accounts Payable Clerk, Rachel helped ensure that the borough's finances ran smoothly. And during her time in the borough Clerk's office—first as Deputy Clerk and then as Borough Clerk and Administrator—Rachel handled everything from pet licenses to marriage licenses, birth certificates to death certificates, voting registration to elections oversight.

While all of these accomplishments are certainly noteworthy, perhaps the most remarkable tribute to Rachel is that she did these things while raising four children and being a wife to her husband of almost 35 years, Thomas. In and of itself, the work of a wife and mother goes well beyond a full-time job, yet Rachel found the strength and ability to serve both her family and her community.

As Rachel concludes one chapter of her life and commences the next, I applaud her past service and wish her a future filled with continued success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SANDY AND BUTCH LONGMORE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise to pay tribute to Butch and Sandy Longmore of Montrose, Colorado. For many years, they have been taking foster children into their home and providing a positive influence in the foster children's lives. As foster parents, they have shown tremendous compassion and commitment to the Montrose youth. I am honored to acknowledge this exceptional couple before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Over the last twenty-two years, the Longmores have taken in over 150 foster children. Depending on the circumstances, the foster child stays for a period ranging from a week to several months. In seven different cases, the Longmores have adopted one of the children they were temporarily housing. In addition to their seven adopted children, the Longmores have four children of their own. In recognition of their efforts, the Colorado State Foster Parent Association recently honored the Longmores as the May recipients of the Colorado Foster Parents of the Month. Butch and Sandy are compassionate and caring individuals that obviously take great interest in providing care to young individuals that have difficult situations to overcome.

Mr. Speaker, Butch and Sandy Longmore have truly distinguished themselves as outstanding individuals. They understand the community's commitment to raising the next generation of citizens, and, in assuming that responsibility, have positively changed foster children's lives. I thank Butch and Sandy for their hard work and dedication and I wish them the all the best in their future endeavors.